

From: Renee
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 9:44am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to voice my concern on the recent events behind the Microsoft Antitrust case. I am against any further government action. What I do not understand is the punishing of Microsoft for producing a quality product. Under our system of free enterprise, we are free to purchase and use any computer products we wish. It just so happens that Microsoft has created far better products than other competing companies have been able to.

Can you imagine that use of the Internet by ordinary citizens would have been possible without a common platform for communications? In addition to the superior software Microsoft has created, the company has created a niche in the marketplace that in the past decade has brought a huge amount of growth to our economy, not to mention the standardization of computer software programs that have allowed computerization to become part of everyday life.

As an investment portfolio manager, I represent clients who have invested hard-earned savings into American companies like Microsoft whose financial success benefited ordinary Americans willing to invest in these companies. The additional litigation risk to shareholders has risen dramatically in this country as tort lawyers, including state Attorneys General, seek deep corporate pockets. It is no coincidence that the peak in our financial markets coincided with the Justice Department's announcement in March 2000 that it would seek to break up Microsoft.

Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows to promote non-Microsoft software programs. Microsoft has agreed to design future versions of Windows to make it easier for non-Microsoft software to be installed within Windows, and Microsoft has even agreed to a technical committee to monitor future compliance. I doubt if other firms would do as much. It is shameful that companies like Microsoft should be punished for

their success-whatever happened to the American dream? I urge you to support this settlement.

Sincerely, Renee' M. Smith

Sincerely,

Renee Smith